WHAT’S BUZZING
TERM 1 Week 3
Date Issued 13/2/2015

February
17th P&C Meeting - 6:30pm - Cafeteria
27th Subject Changes Close - Yrs 9,10,11,12

March
6th School Photos
11th School Photos - Catch-up day
18th Vaccinations
23rd - 27th Yr 12 Exams (TBC)
31st Parent/Teacher Night - 4pm

April
2nd Cross Country (TBC)
   Last day of Term 1
3rd Good Friday
18th Northern Excursion begins
20th Staff Return - SDD Term 2
21st All students return for Term 2
   P&C Meeting - 6:30pm - Cafeteria

Tamworth High School
Date Issued 13/2/2015
An Inclusive Centre of Innovation, Creativity and Excellence

Annual Twilight Swimming Carnival
Scully Park Pool
Welcome to the 2015 school year!

Tamworth High School has had a strong start to the school year with many activities and initiatives commencing during weeks 1 and 2. A key aspect of the first week of school is the commencement of our new Year 7 students – our youngest cohort appear to have settled in very well to their new educational setting under the watchful eye of their year adviser, Mrs Scott. Parents of Year 7 students should note that the school is always happy to hear from you and answer any concerns – please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a suitable time to come to the school of to talk to any one of our friendly staff.

During week 1, there was some great news for Tamworth High School with regard to the ongoing development of the school’s facilities. I had the pleasure of meeting with the NSW Minister for Education, Mr Adrian Piccoli and our local Member for Tamworth, Mr Kevin Anderson, at Farrer MAHS where he made several major announcements regarding funding for public schools. The most important announcement as far as THS was concerned was the Secondary Schools Program. This important initiative is aimed at enhancing access to the school overall for students, parents, staff and the wider community. It will focus on improving and updating various aspects of the school’s entrance areas and has a significant budget allocated. Work has already commenced on consulting all stakeholders and developing a range of ideas and solutions – expect to hear more about this fantastic project in coming months.

On the school planning front for 2015, Tamworth High School will be placing a stronger focus on providing targeted support for senior students – this will consist of a range of strategies, commencing with the introduction of the Senior Learning Policy late 2014. To build upon this initiative, THS will be strengthening the teaching support provided via extra tutorial support both in the Library and in various classes. Most importantly, a series of study support days are being developed to provide specific assistance and guidance for seniors - the first of these days commenced on day 1 for all Year 11 students. This study day dealt with areas such as personal organisation, learning styles, study techniques and specific advice regarding the expectations of the school as outlined in the Senior Learning Policy. My thanks go to Mr Porter, Ms Ostle, Ms Bricknell and Dr McCrohon in addition to the numerous staff who assisted throughout the day.

An extension of the Senior Support Program was commenced with the Senior Success Program held last Tuesday evening – a bumper roll up of students and parent participated in a 90 minute information and skills session conducted by Dr McCrohon in the THS Library. The feedback from students and parents has been very positive. The next session of Senior Success will be held week 4 and the next study support day will be scheduled for early Term 2, the focus being upon developing student understanding about how to get the best out of the HSC.

South Bowlo Netball

In the past the Tamworth High girls who wanted to play netball have played under the South Tamworth Bowling Club Logo.

Any new Year 7 girls who would like to play Netball please read the information below.

South Bowlo Netball Registration Day will be held on Saturday 14th February at South Tamworth Bowling Club from 2pm - 4pm.

Also Monday 16th February at Tamworth Sports Dome from 5.30pm - 7.30pm

For further information or questions, please contact Lisa Fox on 0411 660 278
Senior Secondary Student Cards

Students 16 years and older travelling on NSW Trains and coaches require the Senior Secondary Student card to get the student 50% discount fare.

Students need to see SAO to obtain these travel cards.

The Busy Bee Coffee Shop wishes to acknowledge the support of Baker’s Delight, City Plaza for the delicious Focaccias our staff enjoy so much.

Baker’s Delight is also offering a voucher to receive $1 off your next purchase.

The Coffee Shop continues to develop the skills of our students through a range of activities connected to the Coffee Shop such as, cleaning and assisting with cooking. As the students attain a greater skill level they progress to serving and operating the cash register.

The Lioness Ladies, (who offer a mentoring program to the students), come to the Coffee Shop once a week. On these days, the students are learning to take orders, serve the ladies and discuss many things concerning their education and future employment. These skills are all necessary for the student to enter the work force with confidence.

Thank you to all who support the Coffee Shop.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate two Tamworth High School students – Maree Vongphachan (Year 11 2015) was awarded the Mitchell Brady Encouragement Award at the annual Tamworth Australia Day Award ceremony conducted at Ray Walsh House. Maree continues to be an inspiring student at THS and a great ambassador for our school. In addition, our 2014 School Captain, Samantha Moxon was named 2014 Young Citizen of the Year. This is a very well-deserved recognition of Samantha’s strong commitment to her school and the wider community via a broad range of activities and achievements that she has undertaken over many years. Well done to both students!

Finally, the 2015 Swimming Carnival was held last Thursday evening at Scully Park Pool – strong student attendance, perfect weather, lots of staff support and great organisation from Mr Te Rangi and Mr Allen all combined to ensure a great afternoon of swimming competition, both serious and not so serious was had by all. More reports will be forthcoming in the next issue of The Buzz.

Daniel Wilson

THS Benefits from Secondary Schools Program

NSW Minister for Education, Mr Adrian Piccoli and Mr Daniel Wilson
Next Meeting: The first meeting for 2015 will be held on Tuesday 17th February at 6.30pm in the Cafeteria.

Sale of the new bucket hats and caps is progressing well. Remember the $10 cost is only available while current stocks last or until the end of Term 4.

School jackets have arrived into the Uniform Shop and are available for $75.

Canteen Helpers: Urgently needed. If you are able to assist please contact Canteen Supervisor Mrs Judy Watson on 6765 9602.

Parent email addresses required!
The school is currently compiling a data base of parent email addresses. This will allow us to notify you of special events, information evenings, P&C meetings etc.

If you would like to receive emails from the school please either send an email to the school at tamworth-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or contact the school on 6765 7888.

Planning for the future
Throughout your child's school life you'll need to make choices about aspects of their education and future. Here’s a selection of tips to help you plan for parent-teacher talks, subject selection, careers advice and back-to-school.

Time to party
While most parties go off without a hitch, celebrations can go wrong and get out of hand – particularly if the party is unplanned. Here are tips to help ensure your teen and their friends have fun but stay safe.
Time to party: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au//wellbeing/development/time-to-party

CAFETERIA SPECIALS

Week Commencing 16/2/2015

Cake Special Caramel Slice $2.00
Snack Special Spicy Wing Things $1.20
Lunch Special Wedges with Sweet Chilli Sauce and Sour Cream $5.00

Week Commencing 23/2/2015

Cake Special Cup Cakes $1.50
Snack Special Pizza Singles $1.20
Lunch Special Butter Chicken $5.00

Chicken Burgers available on order by 11am
Gluten Free products available
Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC27248’

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC22604’.

Comprehension help for teens

Some kids will read perfectly in primary school and then suddenly struggle with comprehension in high school. Here’s why.


Maths tips for tweens

Kids who find maths easy in the early years of school can be turned off quickly if they get confused and can't work it out. Here are 10 ways to get your tween through the more challenging times.

**ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS™ PARENT COURSE**

*Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems*

A three-session program for parents and carers

at Tamworth Family Support Service 62 Gunnedah Road (next to Gunneys)
on 18th, 25th of February and the 4th of March, from 10am-12pm

Learn:

- Some common ground shared by parents & reasonable expectations to hold about adolescents
- New understandings of adolescence
- A three-option model & flow chart for decision-making
- Self check-in, first - for parents.
- Building relationship with your teenager and making the best of your non-crisis conversations with them
- Skills for tough conversations for handling those problems you just can’t ignore

**Registration Fee: NA**

Register for this course contacting Kelly at Tamworth Family Support Service on (02) 6763 2380

**What parents have said…**

A step dad recalled an incident at the weekend with his 12 year old step daughter. He said that the input he had received the previous week from the course helped him keep his cool and brought a more favourable outcome.

A single Mum who had presented as quite anxious on the first night told the group in week 2 that she had made an appointment with her 15 year old son during the week and had had a far more favourable discussion with him than would previously have been the case.

**Who’s running it?**

The trainer for this course is Athol Munro who completed Parentshop’s Engaging Adolescents training.

Athol is a youth worker with TFSS and has been working with youth, children and families for over 11 years.

For more information contact Athol on 0427115184
SOUTH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Would like to invite interested BOYS, GIRLS (5 years and up), MEN and WOMEN to register for the upcoming 2015 SOCCER season.

South United Football Club is a safe, family friendly club that prides itself with good sportsmanship and fair play for all. We do not discriminate, and we encourage players of all gender, culture and ability to play.

REGISTRATION dates and times:
TAMWORTH SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL (under the infants cola)
Friday, 6th February 3pm - 4pm
Friday, 13th February 3pm - 4pm
Friday, 20th February 3pm -4pm

SOUTH TAMWORTH BOWLING CLUB (in main bar area)
Saturday, 14th February 3pm - 4pm
Saturday, 21st February 3pm - 4pm
Saturday, 28th February 3pm -4pm

2015 season fees are:
entry level 5-7yrs $115 UNIFORMS: socks $10
junior level 8-11yrs $125 shorts $20
youth level 12-16yrs $135
capricorn level 17-18yrs $195
senior men/women $285

Season start: JUNIORS (5-16yrs) Saturday, 2nd May
SENIORS (17yrs & up) Saturday, 11th April

CONTACT: Helena Smith (secretary) mobile: 0402090132
E-mail: wayne_helena@bigpond.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/southlightning

Street Parking Before and After School

Please be considerate of residents in the adjoining streets and do not park across driveways.
Senior Drama - Excursion to Sydney

A small band of Drama students, accompanied by Mrs. Natalie Deacon travelled to Sydney from Monday 9th February until Wednesday 11th February.

Activities included:-
- Watching “OnStage” at the Seymour Centre,
- Watching “King Hit” at the Monkey Baa Theatre,
- Attending a workshop at the Monkey Baa Theatre

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

Our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

The survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students.

A Fairer Way

In 2012, the NSW Government announced its Local Schools, Local Decisions (LSLD) reform for NSW public schools. This reform places students at the centre of school decision making. It gives principals and school communities a greater say over how they allocate and use the available resources to best meet the needs of their students.

To enable the shift of resources to the school level, a new Resource Allocation Model (RAM) has been developed. The RAM is designed to achieve a simpler, fairer and more transparent distribution of government school funding and change the way resources (staff and finances) are managed in our school system.

The RAM provides many benefits to schools by:
- allocating most funding on a per student basis.
- distributing resources to schools based on the characteristics of those schools and the students within them. This will result in additional schools receiving funding to support students with identified needs. In addition, schools identified as having students with the highest need will be funded at a higher rate.
- providing increased funding that goes directly to schools. This will make school planning easier from year to year.
- shifting from the previous funding model where schools managed around 10% of the total public school education budget to more than 70% being managed by schools.
- allowing for more flexibility, innovation and decision-making in schools to meet student needs. In 2014, NSW public schools received funding based on the first two components of the RAM: the targeted (individual student) funding and equity funding for Aboriginal background and Socio-economic background students.

In 2015, two new equity loadings will be delivered for:

Low level adjustment for disability
English language proficiency.

Both loadings are determined by the most recent student data and needs based methodology. Eligible schools will also receive funding details of the new location loading to address additional costs faced by NSW schools that are geographically remote or isolated.

These are the first steps to implementing a fairer funding model which meets the needs of individual students and recognises that different schools have different needs.

Source: NSW Department of Education & Communities